

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** A joint prosthesis comprising:
 - a head member so sized and shaped as to be articulatable with a joint socket, the head member defining a head bore;
 - a proximal body member that includes:
 - a base;
 - a plug protruding from the base and so sized and shaped as to be receivable in the head bore; and
 - a spigot protruding from the base, the spigot including a locking band with a constant ~~whose cross-sectional geometry along its length; is uniform transverse to the spigot's axis;~~ and
 - a stem member that includes:
 - a proximal portion defining a stem bore that:
 - is sized and shaped for receiving the spigot; and
 - includes a receiving portion with a constant ~~whose cross-sectional geometry along its length that is uniform transverse to the bore's axis and is~~ sized smaller than that of the locking band so that for engaging the ~~locking band of the spigot engages the receiving portion~~ by friction-tight press-fit as the proximal body member becomes fully seated on the stem member; and

a shaft extending from the proximal portion, being sized and shaped for seating in a cavity of a long bone, and including:

a midshaft portion ~~and a distal portion~~ of the stem member, at least a portion of which is the midshaft and/or the distal portion so tapered that the cross-sectional area of the shaft in that portion continuously decreases distally from its proximal end to its distal end; and
a distal portion of the stem member, the distal portion terminating with a rounded distal tip.

2. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the locking band and the receiving portion are substantially cylindrical.
3. (Previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the spigot of the proximal body member further includes a second locking band located further from the base of the proximal body than the first locking band, the second locking band having a constant cross-sectional geometry along the length of the second locking band, and a cross-sectional area that is smaller than the receiving portion of the stem bore for the first locking band.
4. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 3, wherein the bore of the stem member includes a receiving portion with a constant cross-sectional geometry that is equal to or smaller than that of the second locking band of the spigot of the proximal body member, for engaging the second locking band of the spigot as the proximal body member becomes fully seated on the stem member.

5. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 4, wherein the second locking band and the receiving portion for the second locking band are substantially cylindrical.
6. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 5, wherein both locking bands of the spigot of the proximal body member and both receiving portions of the bore of the stem member are substantially cylindrical.
7. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 6, wherein the locking bands of the spigot of the proximal body member are co-axial.
8. (Previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the distal portion of the shaft of the stem member is generally round in cross-section.
9. (Previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the proximal portion of the stem member is tapered in the medial-lateral dimension only.
10. (Previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the proximal portion of the stem member is tapered in both the medial-lateral and the anterior-posterior directions.
11. (Previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the base of the proximal body member defines at least one receptacle.
12. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the stem member further comprises a key protruding from the proximal end, the key so positioned as to be received in the at least one receptacle of the proximal body member as the stem bore receives the spigot.

13. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 12, wherein the base of the proximal body member further defines a plurality of receptacles, and the key is selectively positionable in one of the plurality of receptacles.
14. (Previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 12, wherein the key of the stem member is substantially cylindrical.
15. (Previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 12, wherein at least one receptacle of the proximal body member is substantially cylindrical.
16. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 12, wherein the key is located in the proximal body member and the plurality of receptacles are located in the stem member.
17. (Previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the proximal body member defines a hole that passes through the spigot.
18. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 17, wherein the stem member defines a hole at the base of the bore.
19. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 18, wherein the hole of the stem member is so threaded as to receive a threaded bolt.
20. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 19, wherein the hole of the proximal body is coaxial to the hole of the stem member.
21. (Previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 18, further comprising a bolt so passing through the hole of the proximal body and the hole of the stem member as to engage the stem member.

22. (Previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 18, further comprising a bolt so passing through the hole of the proximal body and the hole of the stem member as to engage the stem member and the proximal body member.
23. (New) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the entire midshaft portion of the shaft is so tapered that the cross-sectional area of the shaft continuously decreases distally throughout the midshaft portion.
24. (New) The joint prosthesis of claim 23, wherein the entire midshaft and distal portions of the shaft are so tapered that the cross-sectional area of the shaft continuously decreases distally throughout the midshaft and distal portions.
25. (New) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the shaft is so tapered that the cross-sectional area of the shaft continuously decreases distally from the shaft's proximal end to distal end.
26. (New) The joint prosthesis of claim 25, wherein the shaft tapers in a medial-lateral dimension but not in an antero-posterior dimension.
27. (New) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the distal portion of the shaft is so tapered that the cross-sectional area of the shaft in that portion continuously decreases distally.
28. (New) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the midshaft tapered portion tapers linearly.
29. (New) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the midshaft portion has a non-square rectangular cross section.
30. (New) The joint prosthesis of claim 7, wherein:

the shaft is so tapered that the cross-sectional area of the shaft continuously decreases

distally from the shaft's proximal end to distal end;

shaft tapers in a medial-lateral dimension but not in an antero-posterior dimension;

the midshaft tapered portion tapers linearly; and

the midshaft portion has a non-square rectangular cross section.